

## **GOLDEN EAGLE**

- I hunt from the sky and my main food is small mammals.
- I build a large nest of sticks and branches high in a tree or on a cliff. My nest is called an eerie.
- I catch my prey with my feet and use my strong beak to tear the meat apart. My feet, called talons, are very powerful.
- I have two legs; two wings that stretch seven feet across; and a large golden head. My bones are hollow which allows me to fly.
- I have excellent eyesight and can be seen soaring high over head.
- My mate and I have two young each year. After they hatch, we feed them until they are able to fly.
- Native Americans use my feathers in ceremonies.
- I can be distinguished from vultures because I soar with flat wings.

## **RATTLESNAKE**

- I live in the grasslands but in the winter, I stay in a den or on a rocky ledge with a large group to stay warm.
- You can sometimes find me in a prairie dog town; young prairie dogs make excellent meals for me.
- I am well known for the sound my tail makes. Some people say it sounds like a buzzing noise.
- I am shy and secretive but if you get too close I will curl into a coil and hiss to warn you to stay away.
- Rodents and birds are my favorite meal, but I also eat frogs and lizards. I use a venom to kill my prey.
- I have hinged jaws that allow my mouth to open wide enough to swallow my prey whole. I have to rest after I eat.
- Most people are frightened of me but I am an important predator and help control rodent populations.

- I shed my skin as I grow older and larger. I never change my looks, just my size. However as my skin comes off another button of my tail is formed.

### **WOLF SPIDER**

- Usually I am brown, gray, or black. I am shy and secretive but if you get too close I will curl into a coil and hiss to warn you to stay away.
- I eat lots of insects, many of which may carry diseases or may be harmful to plants. I catch a lot of insects by hunting and running just like the mammal for which I am named.
- Scorpions, ticks, mites, and crabs are some of my relatives.
- My eight simple eyes help see to the front, behind, above and below and to the sides. I also have eight legs.
- I have fangs to inject a venom to paralyze my prey. I suck out their insides and discard their empty shells.
- I carry my babies on my back to protect them. You may see me running on the ground with them on my back. I do not live in a web like others of my kind.
- When I am born, I look just like my parents - eight eyes, two body sections, and quite a few legs. I don't have any wings or antennae.
- We are very adaptable and live in many different places. Our kind has been around for 300 million years. Now many of us live with you in your house.

### **PRAIRIE DOG**

(use this or pronghorn antelope)

- I am a rodent that is a member of the squirrel family. I am a type of ground squirrel.
- In the spring I give birth to 4 to 6 young, they are called pups.
- I have many different calls but one of them sounds like a small dog barking.
- I live in a burrow that may go down ten or more feet into the, ground. I am named for the black tip of my tail and the grasslands where I live.
- I have keen eyesight and have to watch for predators like coyotes', eagles and black-footed ferrets.
- I am a very social animal and live with many others of my kind in an area called a town. I

eat a lot of grass and other prairie plants, but I only grow to be about ten inches tall.

- Some abandoned holes in my town may have burrowing owls and rattlesnakes living there.
- Bison and other animals that eat grass like to feed on the grass where I live because I keep the grass short.

### **PRONGHORN ANTELOPE**

(use this or prairie dog)

- I am a true American native. I have roamed the prairies of North America for at least a million years
- I have excellent eyesight. If you looked through my eyes it would be like looking through binoculars.
- When predators are nearby I flash a warning signal to others of my kind by lifting the white hairs of my rump. In the bright sunlight of the plains, this can be seen for miles.
- My powerful long legs can carry me at speeds up to 65 miles per hour. I am the fastest North American land mammal. I can run for a long time.
- My kids don't have spots like deer. When I am away feeding, they lie quietly in the grass and wait for me.
- Both males and females of my kind have horns, not antlers. Sometimes my horns come off, but they grow back.
- When you see me you will notice my tan or brown color and my white stomach and rump patch. I stand about 3 feet tall. I eat grass and roam many miles looking for good places to eat.
- My predators are coyotes and sometimes eagles, but I can run very fast to protect myself.

